

Beth is a member of the California Academy of Family Medicine, was the Secretary/Treasurer of the Los Angeles Chapter from 1995–2000 and a delegate to the house of delegates during those years. She is a member of the American Medical Women's Association and the Society of Adolescent Medicine. For several years she was a volunteer at the University of Southern California teaching a course titled Introduction to Clinical Medicine.

As Burbank Temple Emanu El's social action chair, Dr. Marcus has coordinated various campaigns for helping others in the Burbank, Glendale, North Hollywood area. She has arranged blood drives, collected shoes and clothing for impoverished children, gathered donations for tsunami victims and hurricane victims, filled backpacks with school supplies, assembled items for homeless women, and made sandwiches for the hungry. In addition, she volunteers in fundraising efforts for the Parent Teacher Association at Emerson Elementary School in Burbank, and is planning to implement a nutrition program at the school called Food is Elementary.

In addition to her professional and civic involvement, Beth is busy as a wife and mother, raising 2 twin boys, Adin and Jonah. She and her husband of 11 years, Dr. Jeff Ring, reside in Burbank.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Dr. Beth Marcus.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAYOR BETTY FLORES

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Betty Flores, an accomplished mayor from my hometown of Laredo, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Flores was elected mayor of Laredo in 1998. Since then, she has worked tirelessly to bring Laredo into the 21st century with success and pride. Whether it be through economic development or the rich culture Laredo is known for, Mayor Flores has been there finding ways to advance the city's agenda.

Last year, Laredo received its highest financial rating in its 227-year history. This is the consequence of Laredo being one of the Nation's largest land ports, with 74 of the Fortune 100 companies and 52 countries conducting international trade via the Port of Laredo.

Mayor Flores has earned many awards including Laredo Times Laredoan of the Year and Texas Women of the Century from the Woman's Chamber of Commerce of Texas. This is Mayor Flores's last year in office, and she will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the opportunity to honor a citizen like Mayor Betty Flores.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYWOMAN SANDRA LEE WIRTH

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mark a very sad occasion: the passing of my former colleague in the New York State Assembly, Assemblywoman Sandra Lee Wirth.

Last Saturday, Sandra Lee lost her courageous battle with lung cancer. She undertook this fight—like all others she took on, and there were many—with the grace, poise and dignity that we all came to expect from her.

Born Sandra Lee Liberatore in West Seneca, Sandra Lee was a realtor by profession, and was President of the Greater Buffalo Association of Realtors in the early 1990s. At that time, during a county fiscal crisis, the Erie County Legislature instituted a county Real Estate Transfer Tax to fund the operation of mass transit services in Erie County. As one might imagine, Sandra Lee was appalled and swore to do something about it. She did.

Sandra Lee took on and defeated an entrenched incumbent in the Erie County Legislature. During Sandra Lee's 3 years in the County Legislature, she was a fighter for senior citizens and property taxpayers. She was also a great opponent of government waste: she refused various "perks" of the job and funded the operation of her legislative district office personally.

In 1994, the incumbent in the then-148th district seat of the New York State Assembly was retiring, and Sandra Lee jumped into the race with the same vigor that she took to the race for the County Legislature. In another heated and expensive campaign, Sandra Lee again defeated the same person she defeated for the County Legislature in this race for the Assembly.

It was in the Assembly that I got to know—and deeply respect—Sandra Lee Wirth. Although we came from different political parties and were of different generations, few people were as kind to me upon my election to the Assembly in 1998 as Sandra Lee was. We represented adjacent districts, and in addition to sharing a border, our respective communities shared many important characteristics and on local issues affecting our communities, Sandra Lee and I worked together very well.

In 2002, the legislative redistricting process was underway—and lo and behold—Sandra Lee Wirth and I were redistricted into the same Assembly district when her hometown of West Seneca was added to my Assembly district. In initial news reports, Sandra Lee was quoted as saying, "I'm running where I live, Period."

Mr. Speaker, I'm glad Sandra Lee changed her mind. Rather than contest an election against me, Sandra Lee instead chose to run in a newly created district east and south of West Seneca. She continued to serve in the Assembly until her death last week.

In 2004, Sandra Lee was forced to deal with another challenge—the illness and subsequent death of her husband Bill. When I saw Sandra Lee at Bill's wake, she spoke lovingly of "her Billy," and as she struggled through Bill's illness and her own, Sandra Lee's love of her family and her community never waned.

Every fight that Sandra Lee Wirth fought was waged with dignity and aplomb. Her commitment to public service was as strong as any I have ever witnessed. I am proud to have called her a colleague, but Mr. Speaker, I am prouder still to have called her my friend. May God ensure that she rests in peace.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BETTY WANG

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 15, 2006*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Betty Wang, of South Pasadena, California. Each year in March, in recognition of Women's History Month, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women.

Betty Wang was born in China in 1947 and moved to Taiwan with her family in 1948. She came to the United States in 1969 in order to pursue higher education at the University of Illinois. Upon graduation she and her husband, Eddie Wang, worked in Chicago for a few years, and then moved to South Pasadena in 1978.

After working briefly for a major insurance brokerage firm handling risk management for corporate clients, Betty retired in 1978 to take care of her son, Timothy. This also marked the beginning of her career as a "professional volunteer."

Betty has been involved in various community activities over the years. She began by assisting teachers in the South Pasadena Unified School District classrooms; then became involved in the Marengo Elementary School Parent Teacher Association where she volunteered in sports activities such as soccer, baseball, basketball, swimming and water polo. She was also involved with the parent organizations at Polytechnic School and was a Den Mother for the Boy Scouts of America. In addition, Ms. Wang is a long-term member of Mandarin Baptist Church in Alhambra.

Ms. Wang has been active in the South Pasadena Chinese American Club for many years, as a board member since 1989 and President in 1992. Much of the South Pasadena Chinese American Club's efforts go toward helping the South Pasadena Unified School District. She served on the Board of the Friends of South Pasadena Public Library for the past 6 years and was the President during her last year. She has continued her volunteer service to the library by serving on the Community Facilities Task Force. Betty was involved in South Pasadena's City Streetscape Committee during the Gold Line Station construction. Her latest volunteer effort is to serve on the President's Council for the Chinese Garden at the Huntington Library, Art Collections & Botanical Gardens, where she is helping to raise funds for the construction of one of the most beautiful and unique botanical projects at the Huntington Library.